



# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **26 STATE INMATES GRADUATE FROM REGIMENTED INMATE DISCIPLINE PROGRAM AT MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY**

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PARCHMAN - Twenty-six inmates graduated from the Regimented Inmate Discipline (RID) program at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) on Thursday following six months of intensive paramilitary training. The "boot camp" program was initially begun at MSP in 1985. Because of its outstanding success as an alternative sanction to long-term incarceration, it was later introduced at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility for women near Pearl, and finally at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution for male offenders located near Leakesville.

Bob Rowe, Director of the RID program at MSP said, "We are extremely proud of our 'boot camp' program here at Parchman. We feel that through the years, it has played a crucial role in diverting young offenders from becoming entrapped in a life of crime. The mission of RID is to work closely with the offenders and to teach them how to make proper value judgments... the lack of which most experts say is the culprit that got most offenders into trouble with the law in the first place." Rowe added, "What makes RID so successful is that it is based on the premise of instilling discipline, respect for authority, and self-esteem through a tough, structured, paramilitary environment."

David Ruffin, keynote speaker at the graduation, and a former MSP Drill Instructor at RID stated, "Each of you are to be commended for your perseverance and steadfast determination to successfully complete this difficult training program. However, I am compelled to remind you that your difficult journey has only begun. The challenge is up to each of you individually as you prepare to return to the 'free-world' to become productive citizens in society."

Prison officials will begin paperwork for the release of the RID graduates in accordance with the provisions of the Supervised Earned Probation law. Having satisfactorily completed all components of the training, the offenders' sentences will be suspended and they will be placed on probation for the remainder of their sentence.